

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1 through 13, 34, and 35-36.

Please add the following new claims:

37. (New) A method as recited in claim 14, wherein said mat is manufactured by the foam process to form a mat having at least regions which exhibit different physical or chemical properties.

38. (New) A method as recited in claim 14, which comprising using a headbox, to form a mat comprised of at least two regions having substantially different properties which include at least one of different density, different material, different reinforcement threads, and different reinforcement webs.

39. (New) A method as recited in claim 38, wherein the headbox is a multilayer headbox.

40. (New) A method as recited in claim 38, wherein the headbox is a divided headbox.

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REMARKS

Claims 14 through 33 and newly added claims 37-40 are submitted for examination in the presently filed divisional application, while canceled claims 1 through 13 and 34 are pending in parent application Serial No. 09/543,534.

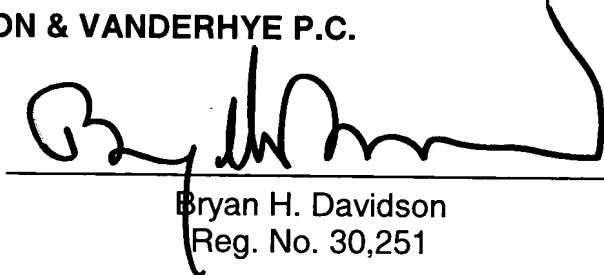
An appropriate cross-reference to the copending parent application has been inserted into the specification.

New claims 37-40 have been added to include generally the subject matter of now cancelled claims 35 and 36, but which conform to the expressions of claim 14 from which such new claims depend.

An early and favorable action based on the merits of the present claims is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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